

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DOCKETING DEPARTMENT**

**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING**

**DOCKET NO. 2005-217-W/S**

**UTILITIES SERVICES OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED – APPLICATION FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICE**

Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. (USSC or the Company) has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for an adjustment of the Company's rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service. USSC is a public utility, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(3) (Supp. 2004), providing water and sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of South Carolina pursuant to rates approved by the Commission in Docket Nos. 93-636-W/S, 94-304-W, and 96-213-W.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 (Supp. 2004) and 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-712.4.A and 103-512.4.A (Supp. 2004), the Company requests that the Commission approve an increase in its monthly water and sewer service charges and in certain non-recurring charges, as set forth in the Application. Also, pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-503 and 103-703, USSC proposes, among others, the following modifications to the terms and conditions of service: providing for billing a tenant for water and sewer services under S.C. Code Ann. § 27-33-50 (Supp. 2004), the addition of language requiring certain customers to conduct cross connection testing and to adding a charge for same if such inspections are undertaken by the Company to meet the requirements of 24A S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-58.7.F.8, and the addition of a provision providing for a pass-through of any bulk water supply or bulk sewer treatment service rates or charges, including tap fees, when imposed on the Company by a third party provider.

In support of its request for an adjustment in the Company's water and sewer rates, terms and conditions, USSC asserts, among other things, that the proposed water and sewer rate increases are necessary in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers, comply with standards and regulations set by the Department of Health and Environmental Control and other governmental agencies which regulate the environmental aspect of the Company's business, and earn a reasonable return on its investment and attract capital for future improvements. The Company also asserts that the proposed water and sewer rate increases are necessary to preserve its financial integrity and to permit continued investment in and maintenance of its facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality services.

A copy of the Application is on file in the offices of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, 101 Executive Center Drive, Synergy Business Park, Columbia, South Carolina 29210, the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) and is available from John M.S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW**

(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the above address and on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) )

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**WATER**

1. Monthly Charges	Current York/Lancaster Counties	Current Anderson/Abbeville Counties	Current Oak Ridge Hunt Club	Current All Other Areas	Proposed
<u>Residential (less than 1" meter)</u>					
Basic Facilities Charge	\$9.00 per unit	\$10.50 per unit	\$8.00 < 1" meter	\$9.00 < 1" meter	\$15.68 per unit
			\$72.00 2" meter	\$81.00 2" meter	
Commodity Charge	\$2.60 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$3.15 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.32 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.62 per 1,000 gallons	\$ 4.30 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
<u>Commercial/Residential (for 1" meter or greater)</u>					
Basic Facilities Charge					
By Meter Size					
1" meter	n/a	n/a	\$22.50	\$25.30	\$39.20
1.5" meter	n/a	n/a	\$45.00	\$50.63	\$78.40
2" meter	n/a	n/a	\$45.00	\$81.00	\$125.44
3" meter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$250.88
4" meter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$392.00
Commodity Charge	n/a	n/a	\$3.32 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.62 per 1,000 gallons	\$4.30 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
<u>Charge for Water Distribution Only</u>					
<u>Residential (for less than 1" meter)</u>					
Basic Facilities Charge	same as residential	same as residential	same as residential	same as residential	\$15.68 per unit
Commodity Charge	same as residential	same as residential	same as residential	same as residential	\$2.46 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
<u>Commercial/Residential (for 1" meter or greater)</u>					
Basic Facilities Charge					
By Meter Size					
1" meter	n/a	n/a	\$22.50	\$25.30	\$39.20
1.5" meter	n/a	n/a	\$45.00	\$50.63	\$78.40
2" meter	n/a	n/a	\$45.00	\$81.00	\$125.44
3" meter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$250.88
4" meter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$392.00
Commodity Charge:	n/a	n/a	\$3.32 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.62 per 1,000 gallons	\$2.46 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
2. <u>Nonrecurring Charges</u>					
Account Set-Up And Reconnection Charges – All Areas					
a. Customer Account Charge (new customers only) – All Areas	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
b. Reconnection Charges	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00

**SEWER**

1. Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Residential – monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$25.00 per unit	\$41.39 per unit
Mobile Homes – monthly charge	\$25.00 per unit	\$29.74 per unit
Commercial – monthly charge	n/a	\$41.39 per SFE

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Charge for Sewer Collection Only

Residential – monthly charge per  
single-family house, condominium,  
or apartment unit

n/a

\$26.64 per unit

Commercial – monthly charge  
Per single-family equivalent

n/a

\$26.64 per SFE

Solid Interceptor Tanks

For all customers receiving sewage collection service through an approved solids interceptor tank, the following additional charges shall apply:

A. Pumping Charge

n/a

\$150.00

2. Nonrecurring Charges

Account Set-Up and Reconnection Charges

a. Customer Account Charge – new customers

n/a

\$25.00

b. Reconnection Charges

n/a

\$35.00 (where Elder Valve installed)

\$250.00 (where no Elder Valve installed)

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, South Carolina on **Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.**

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing concerning these matters should notify, in writing, the Docketing Department at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211 and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416 on or before **September 1, 2005**. Please refer to ***Docket No. 2005-217-W/S***.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a Party of Record with the right of cross-examination, should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before **September 1, 2005** and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. Please refer to ***Docket No. 2005-217-W/S***.

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department, in writing, at the address below on or before **September 1, 2005**. Please refer to ***Docket No. 2005-217-W/S***.

Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence should notify before **October 1, 2005**, in writing, the Docketing Department at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211 and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416. Please refer to ***Docket No. 2005-217-W/S***.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Attn: Docketing Department  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

1 August 2005  
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